

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LIBREV 00636 142205Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 ARA-10 EA-10 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

ACDA-12 HA-05 /120 W

-----108652 142228Z /75

O P 140910Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 0724

USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE 0593

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 0636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, ET, SO, GB

SUBJ: SC ACTION ON THE HORN

REF: A) STATE 63447 B) LIBREVILLE 0620

SUMMARY: PRESIDENT BONGO TOLD ME TONIGHT THE HE COULD NOT RPT NOT  
SUPPORT SECURITY COUNCIL ACTION ON THE HORN  
UNTIL AFTER THE OAU MEDIATION COUNCIL MET AND ATTEMPTED RESOLVE PRO-  
BLEM.

HE THOUGHT USG WOULD BE BETTER ADVISED NOT TO RISK CALLING SECURITY  
COUNCIL MEETING UNTIL THEN LEST WE "AS FRIENDS" SUFFER SETBACK.

HE DID NOT RULE OUT SUBSEQUENT UNSC ACTION IF OAU PROVED IMPOTENT  
AND HE AGREED THAT UN WAS APPROPRIATE VEHICLE FOR CARRYING OUT  
IMMEDIATE HUMANITARIAN NEEDS. END SUMMARY

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PAGE 02 LIBREV 00636 142205Z

1) BONGO RECEIVED ME AT 1900 TODAY IN RESPONSE MY MARCH 12  
REQUEST FOR MEETING TO CARRY OUT INSTRUCTIONS

REFTEL (A). HE KNEW WHY I WAS COMING AND HAD PREPARED FIRM POSITION.  
BEFORE I EVEN GOT INTO MY PRESENTATION, BONGO CUT IN TO STATE THAT  
THE UNITED STATES, MUST LET THE OAU TAKE THE FIRST  
STEP IN ATTEMPTING PERSUADE ETHIOPIANS ACCEPT CEASE FIRE AND PREVENT

REPRISALS. THIS WOULD BE DONE AT THE OAU MEDIATION COMMISSION MEETING ALREADY SCHEDULED FOR LAGOS THIS WEEK (HE REPEATED MARCH 19 SEVERAL TIMES BUT DID ONCE SAY "THURSDAY". IF THE OAU FAILED, THEN AND ONLY THEN SHOULD WE TAKE THE PROBLEM TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND WE WOULD DO SO WITH HIS FULL SUPPORT. IF WE DID SO BEFORE OAU MEDIATION COMMITTEE MET, WE RISKED A SETBACK.

EIMUHIKDO#EXPLAINED THAT FRENCH AMBASSADOR DELAUNEY, WHOM HE HAD RECEIVED YESTERDAY WITH JOURNIAC WHO REPRESENTED FRANCE AT RENOVATION DAY CELEBRATIONS, HAD ALREADY PRESENTED OUR POSITION IN GENERAL TERMS DAY BEFORE (WE HAD BEEN APPRISED OF THIS BY FRENCH EMBASSY). "YESTERDAY EVENING HE SAID, "I AGREED WITH YOUR POSITION." AFTER MULLIN IT OVER LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING, HE CONTINUED, AND AFTER MEETING WITH AN UNIDENTIFIED NIGERIAN MINISTER HERE FOR RENOVATION DAY, HE CHANGED HIS POINT OF VIEW TO THAT SET FORTH ABOVE. BONGO, WHO WAS VERY AMICABLE THROUGHOUT, STATED THAT HE FELT HE NEEDED PULL NO PUNCHES IN ASSERTING HIS AND OAU'S VIEWS TO HIS FRIENDS.

3) WHEN I FINALLY GOT CHANCE TO RECOUNT SECRETARY'S AND YOUNG'S MEETINGS WITH GARBA AND SECRETARY GENERAL'S CALL TO THE SECRETARY, BONGO REITERATED HIS CONCURRENCE WITH THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED ESPECIALLY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LIBREV 00636 142205Z

THE POSSIBILITY OF REPRISALS BUT INSISTED THAT OAU MUST ATTEMPT RESOLVE PROBLEM FIRST. IF THAT DOES NOT SUCCEED, HE SAID, "WE'LL SEIZE THE SECURITY COUNCIL." BONGO ALSO STATED THAT, AS THE OAU HAD NO PEACE KEEPING FORCE, IF ONE WERE NEEDED IT WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM THE UN. HE ALSO THOUGHT OBSERVERS WAS USEFUL IDEA. HE WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT WE SHOULD NOT TELL ETHIOPIANS WERE OBSERVERS WOULD BE DRAWN FROM BECAUSE THEY WOULD SUSPECT UN PERSONNEL BROUGHT IN FROM CYPRUS OR THE MIDDLE AS BEING ARAB-INFLUENCED. BONGO ADDED A NOTE OF OPTIMISM THAT THE SOVIETS WOULD PERHAPS BE RESTRAINING INFLUENCE ON ETHIOPIANS BECAUSE SOVIETS FEARED SECURITY COUNCIL CONDEMNATION AND EVEN AN OAU CALL FOR UN SANCTIONS. BONGO ALSO CONSIDERED ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE THAT ICRC OR UNHCR TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO ADDRESS HUMANITARIAN NEEDS FOR OGADEN POPULATION. TIENKEN

NOTE BY OCT: # AS RECEIVED.

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLICIES, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, MILITARY OCCUPIED AREAS  
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**Draft Date:** 14 mar 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**TAGS:** PORG, ET, SO, GB, OAU  
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**Type:** TE  
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